

I do not support increasing the Morse code requirements as specified in this petition.

Rather, I support the elimination the Morse code requirement for all classes given that the ability to pass a test by memorizing questions and answers is also eliminated.

Morse code is a efficient and simple method of communication, but the realtiy is that a large percentage of amateur radio operators have learned code only to pass a test. They have never used it and no longer have the proficiency skills needed to effectively communicate using code. Furthermore, digital modes such as PSK-31 are more bandwith-efficient and noise-tolerant.

A better method of improving useful skills and competence would be to eliminate the Morse code requirement but also eliminate the ability for applicants to pass tests by simply memorizing published questions without gaining any real understanding of the material.

The present system of a PUBLISHED QUESTION POOL (that can be easily memorized) is also ELIMINATED in favor of question guidelines or a similar system so that applicants would need to really understand the concepts, particularly in the case of the theory-type questions.

It would be very easy to create fill-in-the-blank question and answer guidelines for most items. For example, instead of one or two questions on Ohm's law with specific values of E, I, and/or R, there could be 3 question formats, each giving two of the quantities and asking for the third. It could be further specified that the actual values given must be whole numbers so that the math involved is simple and the answer comes out as a whole number or possibly common fractional or decimal value. There could also be questions that give a simple circuit and just ask if one value goes up or down, what does another do. This would much better test whether someone understands the formula and relationship than a person being able (as they can at present) memorize that the answer to the question on Ohms's law is "2".

I have seen many instances in the past where individuals obtained Extra class licenses without gaining any real technical knowledge. This is contrary to the intent of the higher license classes.

As an instructor I try to teach the actual theory and other information, but I find many people resist learning or trying to understand it because they know all they really have to do is memorize.

If the method of generating examination questions is changed, I do support the simplification of license classes and providing limited HF voice privlges to the new "Novice" and Techician class as proposed in other petitions.